

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

A NEW PIKA (MAMMALIAN GENUS *OCHOTONA*)
FROM CENTRAL NEVADA.

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(Contribution from the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology,
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Study of specimens of the genus *Ochotona* from the higher mountain ranges of central Nevada shows the existence there of a new subspecies which may be named and characterized as follows:

***Ochotona princeps tutelata*, new subspecies.**

Type.—Male, adult, skin and skull; no. 58519, Mus. Vert. Zool.; Monitor Mountains, Greenmonster Canyon, 8150 feet, Nye County, Nevada; July 15, 1933; collected by W. C. Russell; original no. 3101.

Range.—Monitor, Toquima and Toyabe mountains in central Nevada.

Diagnosis.—Size: Medium (see measurements). Coloration: Intermediate between that of *Ochotona princeps muii* and *Ochotona princeps cinnamomea*. Skull: Small; deep; dorsal outline highly arched in longitudinal axis; nasals straight sided; palatal bridge short.

Comparisons.—*O. p. tutelata* is structurally more similar to *O. p. cinnamomea* and *O. p. muii* than to other described races of *Ochotona*. Compared with topotypes of *cinnamomea* on the one hand and *muii*, from Heather Lake, Eldorado County, California, on the other, *tutelata* is found to be exactly intermediate when in fresh July pelage and nearer *muii*, by a slight degree, when in worn winter pelage. From each of these two races, *tutelata* differs in having a skull of greater depth, lesser average length and breadth and, save in specimens from the Toyabe Mountains, a shorter palatal bridge. This greater depth of the skull, as measured perpendicularly to a plane touching the tips of the incisors and ventral margins of the tympanic bullae, amounts to more than 39 per cent of the occipitonasal length in each of the three populations of *tutelata* and less than 39 per cent in *muii* and *cinnamomea*. The greater longitudinal convexity of the dorsal outline of the skull of *tutelata* is a feature constantly

separating it from *muiri* and *cinnamomea* when specimens of equal age are relied upon.

From *O. p. cinnamomea, tutelata* differs also in having the lateral margins of the nasals straight rather than constricted near the middle and in having the foramen magnum smaller and the supraoccipital bone of correspondingly greater depth. Stated in another way, in *cinnamomea* the foramen magnum is larger, relative to the area of the occiput, and the supraoccipital bone is reduced in size.

Remarks.—In his "Revision of the American Pikas" (N. Amer. Fauna no. 47, p. 47, 1924) Howell has identified specimens from the Toyabe Mountains of central Nevada as *Ochotona schisticeps cinnamomea*—as I see it, a justifiable identification considering the limited amount of material then available to him of the geographic race now named *tutelata*. The use here of the specific name *princeps* rather than *schisticeps* is in accord with the conclusions arrived at by Borell (Jour. Mammalogy, vol. 12, p. 307, 1931).

The pikas in each of the three mountain ranges from which *tutelata* is known are isolated from those in each of the other ranges, and probably have been so isolated for a long period of time. On this account one might expect to find considerable difference between these three populations, but actually they are closely similar. It is true that the animals from the Toyabe Mountains have a broader (anteroposteriorly) palatal bridge than those from the Monitor and Toquima mountains. However, the other differences noted are of an "average" sort and are of slight amount.

Specimens examined.—Total number, 40, all from Nye County, Nevada, as follows: *Monitor Mountains*: Greenmonster Canyon, 8100 to 8200 ft., 10. *Toquima Mountains*: S. W. slope Mt. Jefferson, 8700 ft., 15; 9500 ft., 1; 10600 ft., 2; 11000 ft., 1. *Toyabe Mountains*: Arc Dome, 5 (coll. U. S. Biol. Surv.); South Twin River, 4 (coll. U. S. Biol. Surv.); Mohawk Cañon, 2.

AVERAGE, MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM MEASUREMENTS, IN MILLIMETERS, OF *Ochotona princeps tutelata*.

Locality	Total length	Length of hind foot	Occipitonasal length	Zygomatic breadth	Breadth of brain case	Interorbital breadth	Breadth of palatal bridge	Length of nasals	Number of adults averaged
Monitor Mts.....	170 155-190	28.7 28-30	40.3 38.1-41.8	19.8 19.3-20.7	17.1 16.5-17.8	5.1 4.8-5.5	1.4 1.2-1.7	12.9 12.4-13.4	9
Toquima Mts.....	171 160-181	28.4 26-30	41.5 39.9-42.6	20.1 19.5-20.6	17.4 16.6-18.0	5.1 4.6-5.4	1.5 1.4-1.8	13.5 13.1-14.3	17
Toyabe Mts.	181 173-185	28.0 27.5-29	41.5 40.9-42.0	20.4 20.2-20.6	17.3 16.5-17.5	5.0 4.8-5.1	2.0 1.8-2.1	13.9 13.0-14.1	6